the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

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Today

Mel Gibson's *The Passion*

It's not the violence per se that has caused controversy in Gibson's new film, *The Passion of the Christ*. It's the opportunity to think for ourselves. Page 3

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Obesity Worse than Smoking

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Mel Gibson's movie raises passion among people who would not think about Jesus otherwise. Page 10

Politicians courting the college vote

The number of people who vote in the 18-24 age bracket is on the rise.

BY NATASHA FREDERICKS-KLEIN
Lions' Pride Editor

Photograph courtesy of SLU News

Betty Castor, who is running for the U.S. Senate, spoke to the Saint Leo community on March 2.

SAINT LEO - It is that time again: time to vote, time to decide, and time to make a choice. It is time to get that ticket punched one way or another. Calling all college students. It is time to vote!

With all this confusion about war, scandals, terror, taxes, and education, students may feel overwhelmed regarding voting. More importantly, it requires students to contemplate who it is exactly that should be in office, and often who to vote for can be more than a bit confusing. But just because students are confused, does not mean they should not vote. The college vote count.

It is true that the voting bracket of 18-24 is low, but the number of people who vote in this age bracket is rising according to CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement). Some politicians are starting to notice the trend; and more importantly, they are starting to address this age groups' needs. In recent months, a few politicians have formally addressed college-age students. Such politicians include United States representatives Tammy Baldwin and Mark Green, who addressed Wisconsin college students on January 8, 2004, and United States Senator Jon Corzine, D-N.J., who addressed students at Rutgers Student Center on the College Avenue campus.

In addition, President Bush addressed college students in January with ideas about his $250 million job-training program for community colleges and was quoted as saying in reference to his plan: "[We need] a system willing to take input from the employers. A system which is willing to change curriculum, if need be, to meet the needs of the local workplace."

Even here at Saint Leo University, students can be found discussing politics in the McDonald Center during meals, and politicians can be found visiting our campus.

On Thursday, March 4, 2004, United States senatorial candidate, Betty Castor spoke to more than 100 members of the Saint LeoUniversity community from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Selby Auditorium followed by an intense discussion between Castor and some Saint Leo students.

Castor's speech included her intended goals as senator, as well as the importance of college students paying attention to politics in order to protect themselves and their families. She also emphasized the importance of education and working in the community.

Castor is nota newcomer to Florida education. She came to Dade County, Fla., after college and the Peace Corps to accept her first teaching assignments.

"Florida schools were just becoming integrated," she said. "I was the first white woman to teach in an all-black school."

She has been an advocate for higher education ever since and has served as president of the University of South Florida and as education commissioner.

Castor believes that things are different today.

"We are living in a time of fundamental change," she said. "It is a global world."

However, she is still quite optimistic about the future.

"Your future is limitless," Castor told Saint Leo students. "It is important for you to become more involved. Take charge of your future by voting and becoming involved in politics, whatever your party is – get out there and vote."

Castor's attention to the 18-24 age bracket shows that even in Florida the times are changing and every college student's opinion counts.

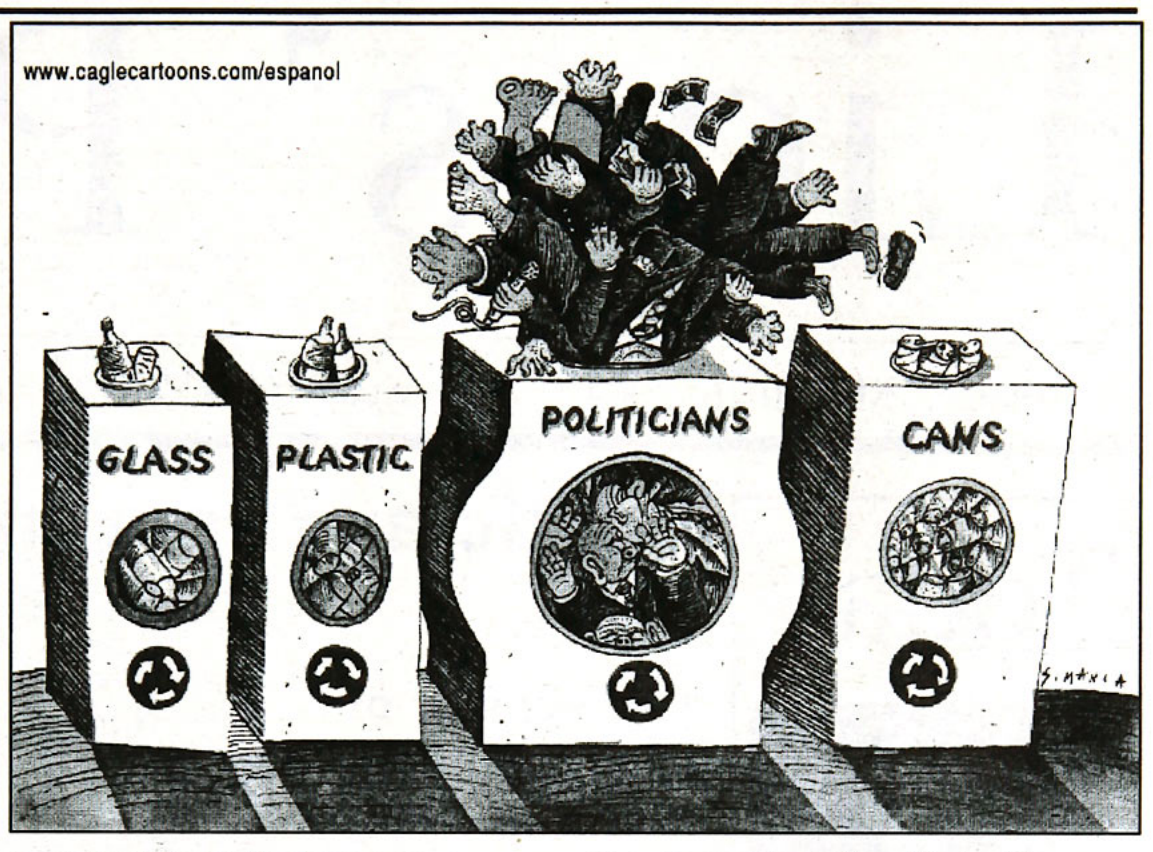
According to the United States Census Report and Registration, in the 2000 election, 50.7 percent of people 18-24 were registered to vote, but only 36.1 percent voted. Why not make this year reach 50.1 percent or more? At least you could add one vote to the report for 2004.

Opinions

EDITORIAL

The search for John Kerry's running mate

BY DONNA GENTILE O'DONNELL
Daily Pennsylvania (U. Pennsylvania)



(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — As Democratic nominee John Kerry turns his attention toward picking a running mate, the profiles of the potential "veeps" are emerging. Conventional wisdom is to look at the field of also-rans, then add in the should-be/could-be-considered.

Apply any number of lenses through which to view the potential combinations: geography, ideology, electoral votes, key constituencies, political pedigree, charisma, physical appearance (Botox commentary notwithstanding) ... pick one, and let the speculation begin.

John Edwards scores points for being one of the best campaigners in recent memory. Being from the South helps. But his credentials as a first-term senator and his lack of gravitas in foreign policy are not the best profile. And the trial lawyer's recent attempt to strong arm the Kerry campaign by intimating that their financial support hinged upon Edwards being put in the number two spot went over like a lead balloon with Kerry loyalists.

Bob Graham, a popular former governor and senator, helps in the contested state of Florida. But Graham is low-key, almost dour at times, making his running mate seem charismatic (which, even Kerry stalwarts admit, is hard to do). Not a great dynamic there.

Howard Dean, the liberal governor from Vermont, crashed on the electoral vote count launching pad. He made some important advances, bringing in master political operative Joe Trippi, and revolutionizing Internet fundraising. He was the energizer bunny of the Democratic field. But he shorted out in Iowa, unable to recharge. Not exactly a winning endorsement.

Gen. Wesley Clark, a political newcomer, ran a lackluster campaign, which never really got off the ground. He "Hamlet-ed" his way into the decision "to be or not to be" a candidate. He also made a strategic political error, making public reference to candidate Kerry's alleged intern problem during the primary. Not happening.

Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt brings lots of big labor and a big advantage in the rust belt states — critical in putting the D's over the top in November. He managed a losing campaign with guts and decency, looks vice presidential and has the stuff to actually be president (a priority for Kerry). But big labor was a big disappointment for Gephardt. Will they deliver for the ticket? That's an open question among Democratic strategists.

Arizona's Attorney General Janet Napolitano is on the radar screen. Though not well known, she is a popular, law-and-order woman in the fastest-growing state in the nation. Not a bad start ... but not proven on the national stage. A risk.

Our own governor here in Pennsylvania is mentioned in more than a few conversations. His friends remain hopeful that Kerry will consider a "Northeast only" strategy, meaning that the campaign would focus principally on winning all non-Southern states, with the exception of California. Kerry has actually said that this could be a legitimate strategy to win in November. A sitting Pennsylvania governor could fit nicely into that strategy. But even Rendell says he'd advise against it.

Then there's Hillary. While she would energize the base which means activity, votes and cash — she is still a polarizing figure for a lot of Americans. But Hillary in the veep spot gets the Democrats' best asset, Bill Clinton, back in the race with both feet.

One of the most interesting options for Kerry to consider is New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. Richardson — a former congressman, former U.N. Ambassador under Clinton and former secretary of energy — has one of the most intriguing political profiles.

Richardson was born to a Mexican mother and an American father in California, a "must-win" state for the Democrats and Richardson's neighbor state. With a Republican governor running it, California can't be treated as a foregone Democratic win conclusion.

As a congressman, Richardson served on the influential Select Intelligence Committee. During his tenure, he negotiated multiple successful hostage releases, including American pilot Bobby Hall in North Korea, and later, Evan Hunziker; two American engineers from Saddam Hussein's Iraq; three Red Cross workers, imprisoned in the Sudan by tribal war lords; and several other political prisoners in hostile nations. Fluent in five languages, he personally negotiated multiple diplomatic missions in conjunction with the State Department and was nominated on two separate occasions for a Nobel Peace Prize. These significant accomplishments were, in part, why President Bill Clinton chose him as the first Latino American to serve as ambassador to the U.N.

Richardson is a big man in physical presence, political capacity, intellect, skill and accomplishment. That he is Latino, and thus capable of energizing the fastest growing group of ethnic voters (and a key Karl Rove constituency target), is an important asset to a Democratic ticket. His dark complexion is a reminder that America is not a white-only nation. A national Democratic ticket, at some point, has to reflect the diversity we spend so much time talking about.

Richardson brings real depth to the Democratic bench. While he has publicly committed to serving out his term as governor, that shouldn't stop Kerry from making sure he's got a VP partner whose got the goods and can deliver. John Kerry should make good use of his formidable persuasive oratory by talking Bill Richardson onto the 2004 ticket.

WRITE HERE

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Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters are subject to editing.

The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publish any letter or column.

Mel Gibson's "Passion" gives us an opportunity to think for ourselves

BY CHRISTINE O'DONNELL
Director of Communication at the Intercollegiate Studies Institute

Movies about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ have stirred controversy in the past, but not to the degree that Gibson's latest film, *The Passion of the Christ*, has. The movie contains prolonged and brutal depictions of violence as recounted in the Gospel stories. Gibson's cinematic signature can be seen all over the film. Slow motion close-ups of violent acts perpetrated on Christ—scourging by Roman guards, hammering of nails into Christ's hands— recall Gibson's Academy Award-winning directorial debut *Braveheart*.

But it's not the violence per se that has caused controversy. Representatives of family groups, such as Focus on the Family's James Dobson, while acknowledging the violence in the film, still hail the movie as "A film that must be seen." Rather, what has drawn fire is the fact that in the movie the people in the crowd who scream for Christ's torture and execution are Jewish—a point that is historically documented in the Christian Scriptures, but is nonetheless disturbing for some, especially since the film depicts these Jewish people ordering the ensuing violence—which is brilliantly graphic and moving.

Scheduled for release on February 25, 2004, *The Passion of the Christ* drew the attention of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as early as June 2003. In a statement released June 24, 2003, the ADL expressed concerns "...that the screenplay reviewed was replete with objectionable elements that would promote anti-Semitism." The *New York Post* film critic Lou Lumenick said it was "deeply troubling that [Jews were] being portrayed as bloodthirsty zealots."

However, according to Gibson, the movie "tell[s] the story as the Bible tells it. ... The Gospel is a complete script, and that's what we're filming." If Gibson is to be taken at his word, had the New Testament documented the English royal house of Stuart torturing and crucifying Christ, then that's precisely how he would have filmed it. Gibson did not deliberately set out to Mel Gibson's "Passion" Gives Us an Opportunity to Think for Ourselves by Christine O'Donnell implicate the Jews in Christ's death; rather, it's most likely that the devoutly Catholic Gibson feels that he himself was responsible for killing Christ—rumor has it that his hand holds the nails that are driven into Christ's wrists in this movie. Crucifixion was nothing short of a brutal Roman practice. The film shows that the Romans had a role (perhaps even a larger one than the Jews) in bestowing violence upon Christ, causing Broadway actor Michael Paterostro to remark, "Forget anti-Semitic, it's the Romans who should be humiliated...."

> **"Forget anti-Semitic, it's the Romans who should be humiliated..."**
>
> —Michael Paterostro, *Broadway Actor*

In fact, there are several Jewish cultural leaders who have seen *The Passion of the Christ* and who suggest that the film is nothing more than an inspirational epic. Michael Medved, perhaps the best-known family-friendly film critic and a devout Jew, said that *The Passion of the Christ* "represents by far the most moving, substantive and artistically successful adaptation of biblical materials ever attempted by Hollywood." Matt Drudge of the *Drudge Report* said, "I thought it was a magical film that showed the perils of life on earth. ...[T]his film, I tell you, is magic."

Moreover, the actress who plays the Virgin Mary in the film, Maia Morgenstern, is Jewish and a daughter of Holocaust survivors. Morgenstern says, "Despite the blood and the violence, it's a beautiful film. I believe it brings an important message, a peace message." Regardless of their ultimate judgment of the film, people should actually see the movie themselves before labeling it as anti-Semitic. Religious leaders from various faiths have come down on both sides of the film. However, as educated people, it's our responsibility to investigate a matter ourselves before blindly accepting another's opinion.

Theatre at Saint Leo this Spring

The Real Inspector Hound
by Tom Stoppard
Thursday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 27 at 3 p.m.

"Let's Murder Marsha"
by Monk Ferris
Directed by Andrew Morrow '04
Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 3 at 3 p.m.

Playhouse 90 One-Acts
Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m.
Friday, April 23 at 7 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

Emily Wreford

Student Employee of the Year for Saint Leo University

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Reflections on war: Protests, support shown throughout year

BY LUKE ALO
The Daily Universe (Brigham Young U.)

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young University student Doug Steffy remembers the life-changing call he received a year ago that sent his company of U.S. Marines Corps to Iraq.

"I was prepared for it," Steffy said. "There's a fear of the unknown, not a fear of 'I'm going to die.' You don't think about that."

President George W. Bush ordered the first missile strikes on Iraq on March 19, 2003, beginning a conflict that appeared to end relatively quickly.

The strikes came 48 hours after Bush gave the ultimatum to Hussein and his sons to leave Iraq.

Those first attacks, which some debated would start a long, difficult confrontation, led to the deployment of thousands of American troops to Iraq.

The attacks marked the beginning of a campaign that would remove Saddam Hussein from power and kill his two infamously cruel sons.

The initial conflict was shorter than anticipated by some. Bush announced May 1, 2003, on the USS Lincoln that the conflict was over. However, the situation in Iraq has continued to smolder dangerously amidst suicide bombers and Iraqi rebels who continue to threaten the lives of U.S. troops.

Many people question when U.S. involvement in Iraq will end, and if weapons of mass destruction will ever be found.

Debate about the war has occurred all over the country-even at BYU.

In the weeks following the U.S. conflict in Iraq, BYU students were divided about the issue. A panel discussion held on campus in March 2003 showed the diverse opinions of BYU students, some of whom protested vocally and some who protested quietly by wearing black armbands to show disapproval of the war.

Steffy said America's presence in Iraq has been necessary, even if only to remove Hussein from power.

"Regardless of whether or not the weapons are found, the world is a better place now that he's gone," Steffy said.

In his speech on the USS Lincoln, Bush praised U.S. troops for their diligent effort, and said major conflict had ceased.

"Because of you, our nation is secure," Bush said, referring to the troops. "Because of you, the tyrant has fallen and Iraq is free."

Steffy aided in freeing Iraq by patrolling the Iraqi cities in light armored vehicles to keep the peace. He said he often felt unsure of what would happen when he drove his vehicle down streets crowded with people on either side.

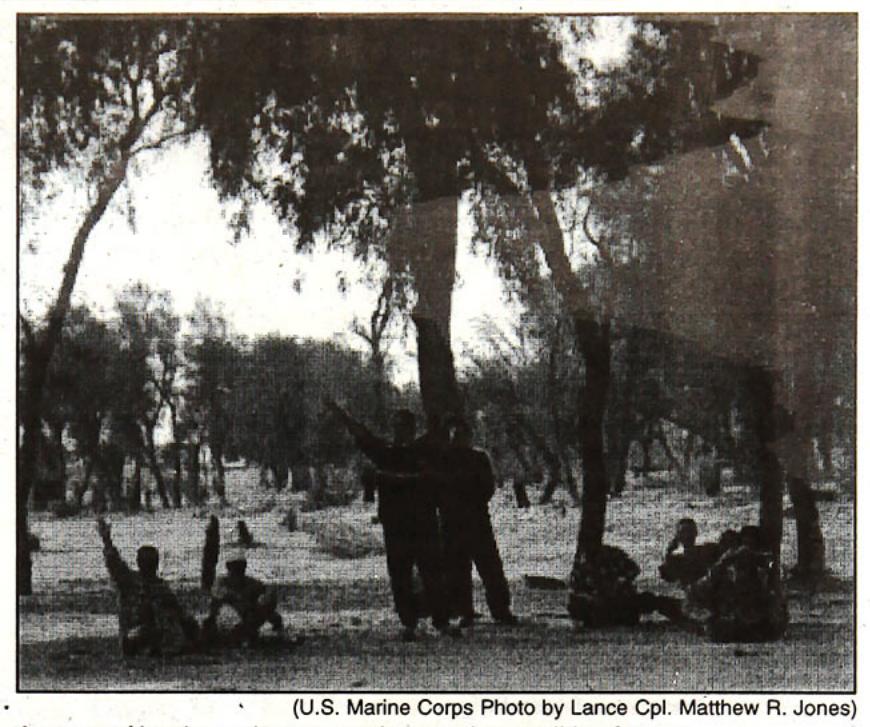
You just hope and pray you make it down the street," Steffy said.

He said although the patrolling was dangerous, the American public has a misconception of the Iraqi people as American-haters. However, Steffy said the majority of Iraqis appreciate American help.

"Old people loved us and little kids loved us," Steffy said. "The little kids would chant in English 'We love America,' and 'We love Bush.'"

Steffy said a small portion of the Iraqi population disapproves of U.S. troops in Iraq, leading to the violence Americans see on the news.

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday that 564 U.S. soldiers have been killed in the Iraq conflict; most died after Bush's May 1 declaration. In addition 3,254 U.S. soldiers have been wounded.



(U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Jones)
A group of Iraqi people wave at the passing coalition forces.

After Bush's speech, the United States experienced measurable success in dealing with the Hussein family.

The two Hussein sons, Uday and Qusay, were killed in battle July 22, 2003. Their deaths symbolized American success and the beginning of hope for oppressed Iraqis.

"Over the period of many years, these two individuals were responsible for countless atrocities committed against the Iraqi people, and they can no longer cast a shadow of hate on Iraq," said White House representatives in a statement released at the time.

In January 2003, Bush detailed the reasons why Hussein was a threat, and vowed to remove him from power.

"A brutal dictator, with a history of reckless aggression, with ties to terrorism, with great potential wealth, will not be permitted to dominate a vital region and threaten the United States," Bush said in the 2003 State of the Union Address.

Saddam's capture was not far away. U.S. troops captured the ragged former Iraqi dictator Dec. 13, 2003. The once proud dictator barely resembled the aristocratic presence he exuded earlier. He was found hiding in a camouflaged hole in the ground. Not one shot was fired during his capture.

Now, Steffy and his new bride await another possible call that would send the Marine back to Iraq for the summer of 2005.

"You never know," Steffy said. "The military changes every day."

DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Bell, U.S. Army
A soldier from the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion speaks with a boy, while bags of rice and wheat are delivered to a village near the city of Najaf in central Iraq.

U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Daniel T. Dark
Children in the local area.

FOLLY AND FANTASY

by Dea Leahy

Submissions by

Linda Johnson

Chris Chanasey

Shannon Finck

Eric Heppner

Deanna Leahy

Josh Davis

Julia Carroll

Debra Gawet

Diana Casobea

The Fictitious Side of Saint Leo

- Spring 2004 -

Students, staff, and faculty of Saint Leo University share their literary creations with the Saint Leo community.

My First Real Date

by Linda Johnson

Oddly enough my first real date began with fake fingernails. Remember those Lee Press on Nails? They were one of the first brands that came out. They didn't stick on for anything so I used to attach them with some off brand of Super Glue. Then I would finish them with about four coats of bright red nail polish. One particular day I was preparing for the Homecoming dance. I had a date, and I was crazy about him. He was taking me to dinner first, and then we were going to the dance.

Well, we went to a fancy restaurant, called the Sheyan Social Club. We were all dressed up and in this lovely restaurant. I was trying to be classy, you know like I'd been to fancy places before. I was really nervous. My date had obviously been to his share of nice restaurants. I was wearing a long dress with super high clogs. It was really awkward especially with those ridiculously long nails. The restaraunt had a huge salad bar, and each table had several smug waiters. It was dark and very quiet.

Somewhere between the soup and the main course, I lit a cigarette. I was trying to look cool, and, like everything else, I was new to smoking. I hadn't gotten the hang of it and the nails didn't help. Anyway, I was well into my drink which I was also new at. I think it was a double something, I was so nervous and thirsty, so I was drinking it down pretty fast. I started to feel very relaxed and a little nauseous. I took a long, drag off the cigarette which made me light headed. While my date was getting some more salad from the salad bar, I tried to get myself together and carelessly put the lit cigarette in the ashtray. I fixed my dress and fidgeted with my jewelry, staring straight at him all the time. When he returned to the table , he took his seat across from me, and I saw that a cocktail napkin was wadded in a ball in the ashtray and it was on fire from my cigarette. I clumsily patted at the burning napkin trying to put the small but raging fire out before he could see what I had done. The fire seemed to get worse. When I pulled my hands away, my nails were on fire! My date was horrified and batted at my hands frantically with his linen napkin. Not knowing that the nails were fake, he was more than concerned. After plunging my flaming fingernails into my water glass and dousing the flames, I pulled my hand out. The dripping plastic had oozed into long stringy globs that were hardened by the ice, and the red polish looked like blood. My date was babbling something about the hospital and one of the waiters was looking on disapprovingly from his little station. It was a sobering moment when I looked at the boy I was trying so hard to impress and explained that the nails were not mine, that they were false nails. His worry had been in vain.

Thankfully, he laughed. He practically fell out of his seat laughing. We laughed the kind of laugh that makes your face hurt. We laughed until we cried. There were other dates and lots more laughs. Twenty-five years later, we are still happily married. We are fake nails free, and still laughing.

One For Twenty

by Linda Johnson

While living in a house full of men, I've been privy to my fair share of restaurants. The restaurants however, all share in at least one of three common themes. Breasts, sports, or all u can eat. I derive an odd sort of pleasure at the all you can eat restaurants. I love watching my men tromping off in all directions with plate after plate that I won't have to wash! I love watching them serve themselves, hoarding more than their fair share. Knowing that the kitchen will simply re-supply the banquette and will never run short. I love watching all the heavy set guests dabble with drummets, licking their fingers with their pinkies stuck out. I love fat wives and their skinny husbands. There is a god! I also love the salad bars at these restaurants. They're filled with fatty salad dressings, croutons, cheese, bread with real butter! Anything they can think of to get you to float a leaf of lettuce in. I once saw a lady pouring melted butter over her 8 inch high salad. The potato bars are awesome. Melted butter, sour cream, cheddar cheese, 4 kinds of gravy. The gravy is a work of art. Never a lump! Just perfect gravy at your fingertips. I like the tiny plates to, as if a hungry guest will politely start with one plate at a time. I put one food group on its very own plate! Vegies one plate, meat one plate, bread one plate, salad one plate. It drives the poor waiters and waitresses nuts when they can't take your plate. No tip. It means no tip!

My favorite guests are the big families. You know they come there once a day and eat as much as humanly possible. The only meal of the day! They get their moneys worth, and I am glad because the restaurant makes money on me. I am a snacker. I hate big meals, plus I like to drink beer. Large meals and beer do not go together! I am more of a constant eater. I can't eat six dollars worth of food at once. So it makes me happy to see large people putting it away for me. I like to think of the manager sweating it out in the kitchen, praying that the family will start on the deserts! I can't believe they have not put a time limit on the all u can eat places. I mean if I were a homeless person or really poor. I would just spend the day there snacking all day long. I'd stash some in my pockets for snacks later on. I wonder why you never see them there? I guess like me, they would rather drink than eat! Imagine an all you can drink bar. Wouldn't that be great? All you can drink for six bucks. That's where I and all the homeless people would go.

Now sports bars are a whole other trip. Sports bars are filled with guys that stand at the bar between dart games. Their tan bodies in blue service station uniforms. They stare over their right shoulders with blood shot eyes, draft beers in their left hand, cigarette smoldering in the ashtrays. Oggleing the family women while their husbands watch TV. The boys keep a close eye on the goings on in these places. Might see a girl. Almost any girl will do as the boys are between 14 and 20. Any girl over twelve could have a chance with at least one of my boys. The waitresses are fair game also. Usually they are young friendly and sweet. A sports bar is where I first noticed that my husband speaks to women in a different voice than men. His voice softens and slows. Not with me though, cause I'm just one of the guys! I'm glad too. I hate it when guys get all gushy. It's not masculine. They are meant to be loud and annoying. There is nothing worse than a guy that doesn't shout at least 10 bad words at the television when his team is loosing. I like it when they rip off the team shirt that they were wearing and stomp on it as well. There is just something animal about that behavior. It's great. Preppy guys don't show that kind of emotion. Guys that don't shout at the television will never be faithful. They are just not committed! They will make lousy bed fellows to! They just don't get stirred up enough! My husband gets so mad at the bucks sometimes he's missed total turn arounds cause he has conniptions. At sports bars when a fight is on he actually ducks and jabs just like he was boxing himself.

Teenage years can be awkward especially when it comes to the opposite sex. My sons have been equipped with some sort of inner radar and can spot a female anywhere. You could be speeding down the interstate at 90 mph. Tinted windows and 8 lanes away they can see a female. At one glance they will know her age weight and most importantly breast size. A five-second look reveals their chances of getting laid, their social status in life, availability, financial status, and their chances of getting laid. The radar is never turned off. And even though they possess this amazing talent. Their father is even better at it than they are. He of course is ever ready to lend assistance in this arena. He even taught them a language all their own, so that they would not have to worry me with the constant surveillance taking place.

If you thought mothers had eyes in the back of their heads. You should see my sons at Hooters, another one of Dads ideas. Never mind that the chicken wings are so greasy that he'll have the runs in less than 12 minutes of leaving. Dad loves Hooters. The boys love Hooters. I eat the salad. There is something else about the wonderful food at Hooters. It causes the boys to stutter and stagger like drunken sailors. Even though they're not drinking. One waitress leaned over my middle son's plate and I thought he was going to drool right into her cleavage. My husband of course displays the upmost refrain from making eye to breast contact. His experience has taught him to turn his own eyes into bifocals. He can appear to be looking at sports on a TV across the room and actually be staring right down to the inward most crevasses of the child waitress's cleavage. All the while pretending to listen to my conversation.

Ladies, revenge is rewarding. Hooters is a great place to get money from your husbands or boyfriends. Just drop some blue cheese next to your significant other's foot. When the Hooter's girl bends over the "I will part with money," trance begins. When she stands back up, she'll have a wedgy from you and a smile for the tipper. Just hold out your hand. It's only natural for him to reach into his wallet. While he is in a trance it's an easy 20 bucks!

Linda Johnson is the Coordinator of the Math and Science Department.

Drink with a Minstrel

by Josh Davis

Cloak-kept, her face remained between the blurry jaws of poor lighting. The spilt tea screamed through the carpet fibers, then dried, slammed beneath the almanac of trodden years. Her guitar was obviously slung from neck to hip. Nothing about the way she sipped the remaining tea was revealing. She had all the shades and subtleties of a salesman.

"In the street, [she said], a man came up to me complaining about his cataracts."

"What did you do?"

As though the woman had not heard the question, she dipped into the sagging waist pocket. Meager and slightly embarrassed, her offering was child-charming.

An eyeball hovered in her palm, milk and bloody honey. She must have had a licorice grin.

Retina detached free of charge, I thought.

Photograph
by Julia Carroll

Fairy Tale
by Deanna Leahy

So brightly the moon doth glow
upon this nightly lakeside shore
So gaily leaps the evening doe
across the land forever more
So softly spoken is the young child
who sits in a corner feeling at home
So bravely gazes the knight of wild
up at his maiden in the tower alone
So silently do the nightmares slither
across the dreamy waves of dark
So kindly does the fairy whisper
to the sleeping Meadow Lark
So mystic is the great wide open
far above this planet's rim
So shiny is the sun's sweet rays
even when the moods are dim
So wide are the eyes of a little one
listening through the evening gale
So nothing is more pleasurable
then an old fashioned Fairy Tale

Dancing with the Fox
by Chris Chanasey

Left, down down, right left
I sway as I feel the primal beat
My heart races along, sweat sticking to my palms
His smile widens, revealing rows of pearly whites
And Fox dances with Life

Up down, up up, right down
I feel the hot blood coursing, pounding, flowing
All timidness aside, I am excited as I thrust forward
My body moves closer, to feel the sweat of my partner
And Fox dances with Death

Left up, right up, left down
The dance comes to a close, unfortunately much too soon
I smile and kiss her cheek, telling her she was a good dancer
As I throw her cold body into the river
And Foxes dance is complete

Warrior's Creed
by Eric Heppner

I will fight for what I believe in
Not for what I despise.
I will defend what I cherish
Not what I lust for.
I will attack that which threatens me
Not that which defends what I loathe.
I will defend from the first blood drawn by my sword
To the last blood cooled in my heart.
I will attack from the breath of my first war cry
To the breath I am unable to take in.
I am a warrior.
I live my life in service to one thing and one only.
Not for riches that fade to dust,
Nor love that is fickle;
Not even for the hate that burns;
I will fight for what is left.

Starcrossed
by Dea Leahy

Why I'm a Writer
by Eric Heppner

I'm a writer because I'm obsessed with war but don't want to die just yet.
I write because my thoughts don't make sense in my head.
I write so that I can finally defeat my father in a valiant game of checkers.
So that I can run a marathon,
Then hit a game-winning grand slam,
Then kick a game-winning 99 yard field goal all in the same night.
I write so that I can give myself wings and know what flight is like to birds.
I write so that you won't pester me to.
I write because I'm sad and only the paper will listen.
I write because I lust for things I cannot have.
I write because I'm frail.
I write because I'm weak.
I write because I'm human.

Boys to Men
by Shannon Finck

No, I'm not referring to the early nineties Motown music phenomenon in the title [of this paper]; I'm referring to the actual developmental process that persons of the male sex undergo throughout their life. Unfortunately, I believe that society has gotten things a little mixed up. I'm beginning to that that it is not boys to men, but in fact, men to boys.

I watch my younger brother, an eight-year-old in third grade, and notice that he seems to be more aware of how to behave around a female than the majority of the twenty-something year old guys that I date. When my brother, Devon, gets a girlfriend, which happens frequently, he does everything the way we women wish men would. He calls her, he writes her letters professing his undying love, and he tells everybody that he is dating her. He manages to share, and he talks about her constantly. He holds her hand in public and ditches kickball with his friends to swing with her at recess. Granted, at eight these relationships don't last that long. In fact, they only last about a week at the most, but he is heartbroken when they end. However, while he is involved in any of his relationships, he is an upstanding gentleman, despite the dirt, food, and marker he tends to be covered in.

If only men would be as responsible and diligent about relationships as Devon. For some reason, when boys grow up to be men, they lose all that we adored in them in the first place. I wish the men I date would call me as often as Devon calls his girlfriend. I would be ecstatic if my boyfriend would announce to the world that he loves me, as Devon does with his "six inch voice" in the middle of the crowded school cafeteria at lunch time.

Maybe I date the wrong kind of men, or maybe I see something in my younger brother that will one day make a great man. Or maybe, just maybe, I'm right, and society has everything backward. I don't believe that it is boys to men; I truly believe it is the other way around. Men could learn a lot from the little brothers of the world.

Time
by Dea Leahy

—There is no such thing as the end, for an end would mean time, and time is nonexistent, kept only within the mortal mind. Rather, there is life, and there is death at the end of that life, and then, life at the end of that death. All lives within a circle, and circles have no end. Therefore, ends do not exist, except as means to make sense where one part of the circle merges with another, and so on, and so forth. No end, no beginning. Only the flow of time which does not exist.—

Crying Tree
by Diana Casobea

Ordinary Girl-
by Danielle Stanzione

She sits alone in the darkness of her mind
Weeping to saturate her soul
They pass her by without even a sideward glance
Her other half has run away
And left her full of holes
Sticks and stones WILL break her bones
So she's built a painful shelter
At least now they'll never reach her
She's got a yearning that's unnatural
For things she'll never have
Just a plain-Jane ordinary girl on the outside
But her inner hopes and dreams
Let her know she's out of place
Though they sit pretty outside her concrete walls
And make good conversation
She knows they'll never stick around
So she ignores their wooing eyes
Silly girl, sits alone
Staring into the darkness she's created
But since they never knock
She'll never let them in...

Drawing
by Debra Gawet

Beautiful-
by Danielle Stanzione

They call her beautiful
They say she's mysterious and wild
She runs through their heads like a tameless horse
They put her high up on a pedestal
And the only thing you can do with something so high
Is knock it down
They call her beautiful
But inside she feels anything but
She knows she'll never live up to their standards
And everytime she crashes down
Another wound scars her battered confidence
Once they get to know her
They realize that she's just like everyone else
And then the thrill is gone
And she's no longer mysterious and wild
And they no longer call her beautiful

Monster in the Closet
by Chris Chanasey

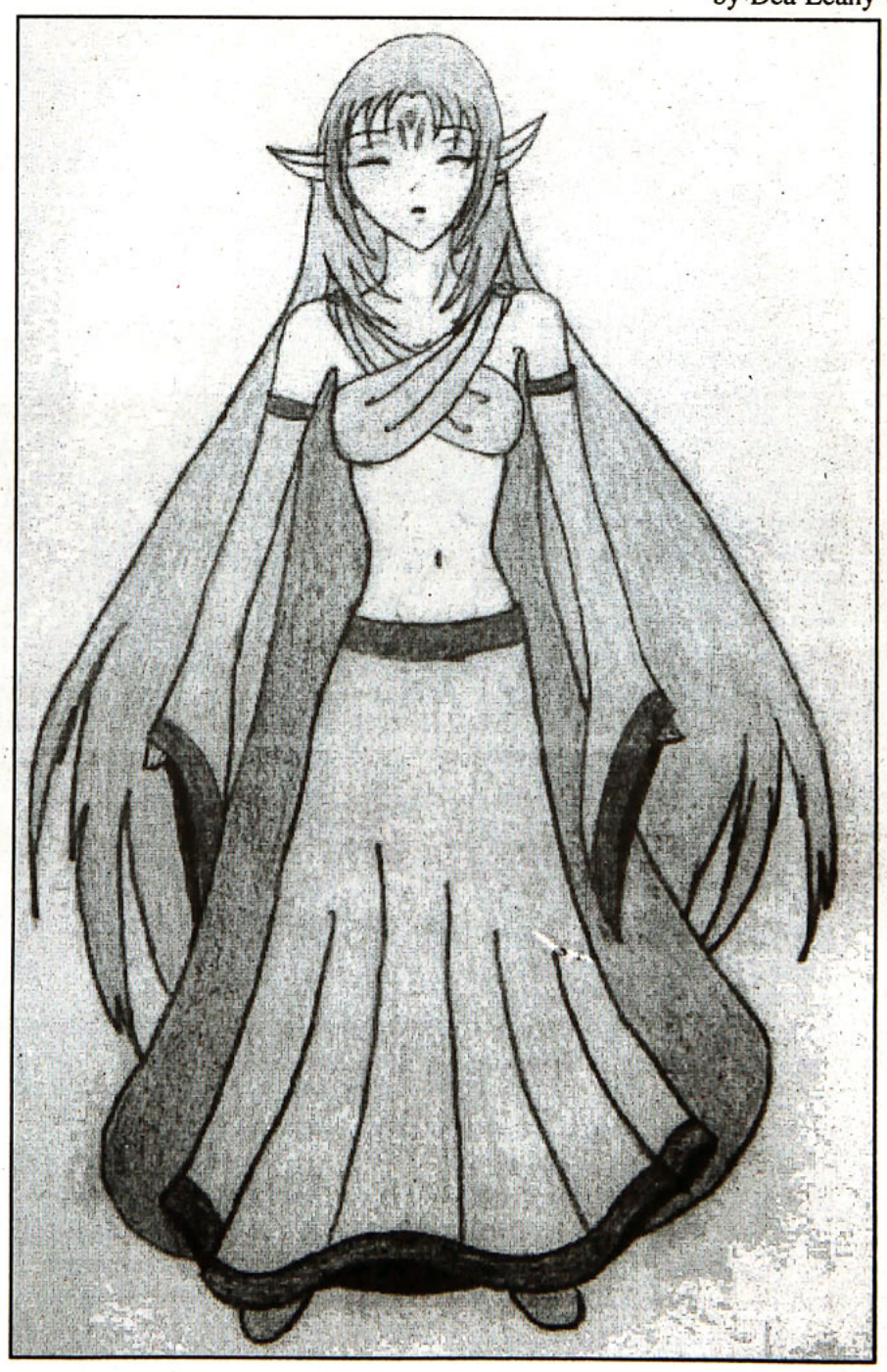
There is a monster in my closet
He taunts me frequently
He sometimes comes out, to scare me
And ruin what balance of sanity to which I cling

This monster in not eight feet tall
He doesn't work in a factory
He doesn't have fur,scales or wings
But he tends to wear clothes

I have to face this monster often
He's always haunting my steps
He listens in on my conversations, taunting me
For he is forever like Peter Pans shadow

The monster is getting worse now
Even harder to control than before
For while most monsters live with your shirts
My monster exists inside of me

Nymph
by Dea Leahy



Obesity worse than smoking

According to the Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity is poised to overtake tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S.

BY CHRIS DIGGINS
Daily Universe (Brigham Young U.)

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — Federal health officials say a double chin and a flabby stomach may soon kill more Americans than cigarettes.

A new study conducted by the Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention said obesity is poised to overtake tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Government officials concerned with the results have already begun work on a national ad campaign encouraging Americans to trim their chins and tighten their tummies.

"Americans need to understand that overweight and obesity are literally killing us," said Tommy Thompson, Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a news release. "To know that poor eating habits and inactivity are on the verge of surpassing tobacco use as the leading cause of preventable death in America should motivate all Americans to take action to protect their health. We need to tackle America's weight issues as aggressively as we are addressing smoking and tobacco."

According to the study, inactivity and poor eating habits lead to 400,000 deaths in 2000, representing a 33 percent increase from 1990. The same study reported similar deaths caused by tobacco had increased by less than 9 percent over the same period.

In Utah alone, thousands of people become obese each year. Obesity is defined as having a body mass index of over 30, while overweight individuals are defined by having a body mass index of over 25. According to Utah Department of Health statistics, about 27 Utahns become obese each day, below the national average.

"The fact that more than a third of deaths in America each year are related to smoking, poor eating habits and physical inactivity is both tragic and unacceptable, because these are largely preventable behaviors," said Julie Gerberding, Director of the Center for Disease Control, in a news release.

"Investments in programs to increase physical activity, improve diet and increase smoking cessation are more important than ever before."

To curb this trend, the government will begin an advertising campaign that will focus on the everyday things Americans can do to lose weight and get in better shape. The focus of the campaign will be to get Americans to take small steps, such as walking short distances rather than driving, to reduce weight gain and stay healthy.

"America needs to get healthier one small step at a time," Thompson said. "Each small step does make a difference, whether it's taking the stairs instead of the elevator or snacking on fruits and vegetables. The more small steps we can take, the further down the road we will be toward better health for ourselves and our families."

The campaign will also feature advertisements with Americans "finding" double chins, love handles and other flabby body parts their neighbors have "lost" as a result of choosing a healthier lifestyle.

"We know that gloom and doom messages warning against weight gain don't work," Thompson said. "These messages are provocative and attention getting, but they are also empowering and achievable."

Utah has been working on its own programs to encourage people to become more active and make the healthy choice the easy choice, according to Rachel Cox, registered dietician with the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program in the Utah Department of Health. Cox said it's easier to make good choices when you put yourself in a good environment.

"It [obesity] is a personal choice, but at the same time you make that choice based on the environment you're in," Cox said. "So if the environment you're in is very unhealthy and does not encourage good nutrition and physical activity then you're less likely to make that good choice."

A University with a View

Photograph by Rachel Blackwood

Students can enjoy a scenic view as they walk down the path that takes them to the New Apartments, the lake, or the graveyard.

Arts & Entertainment

Jesus (Jim Caviezel) sits with the apostles at The Last Supper in a scene from *The Passion of The Christ*, a film by Mel Gibson. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved. A Newmarket Films release. Photo credit: Philippe Antonello.

MOVIE REVIEW

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*

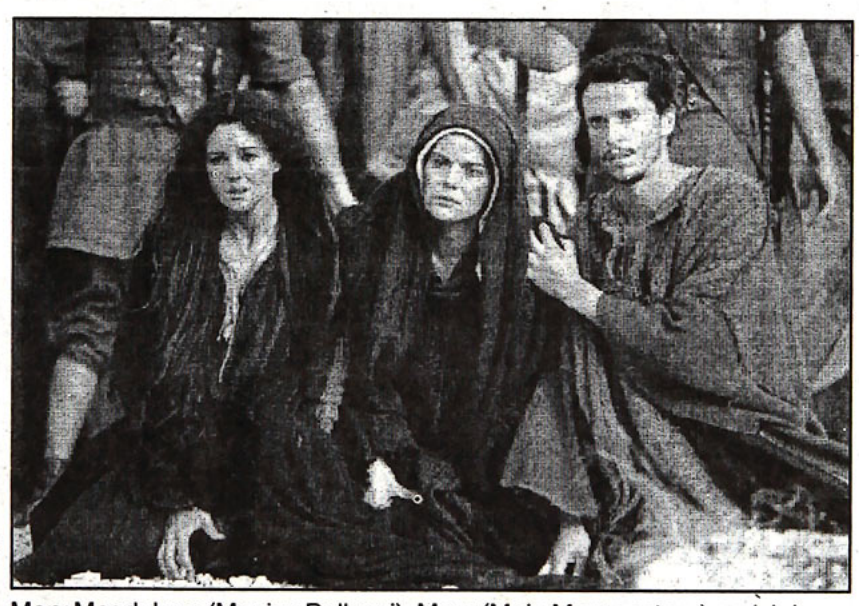
BY RACHEL BLACKWOOD
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

The Passion of the Christ was produced by Icon Productions, distributed by Newmarket Film Group, and directed by Mel Gibson. The film created a flurry of media attention preceding its Ash Wednesday release. In the follow weeks, the attention has died down somewhat. Analyzing a film about a cultural touchstone is not a simple task.

In a film about a seemingly timeless subject matter, sometimes there is an expectation that the film should or will be timeless. However, all films—intentionally or not—reflect the time period they are made in. In the case of *The Passion of the Christ*, Mel Gibson decided to use some contemporary techniques. There are many action shots that freeze and then progress in slow motion, vaguely reminiscent of *The Matrix*. It is questionable whether they enhanced the film or not, but they were not overly distracting.

The texture of the film was unique, with muted color themes for different scenes. The evening scenes and the Crucifixion are themed with blue; the torture scenes have rather uncharacteristic warm, yellow lighting, perhaps to contrast the harsh action occurring. The whipping scenes also featured clarity of the shots, while the Crucifixion had a grainy appearance. And yet, these changes in appearance are fairly subtle; they do not interrupt the action of the film.

The dialog of the film was in Latin and Aramaic. Mel Gibson even considered not having subtitles on the movie. His idea may not have been as far out as it sounds. There is little dialog in the film; much of the story is told completely visually. And since most people are already familiar with the plot of the film, it may still have worked. However, some of the introspective scenes with Pontius Pilate needed the dialog. Pilate, played by Hristo Shopov, was reportedly historically inaccurate. As a character, he is sensitive and well-developed. Jim Caviezel is superb in the role of Jesus. Of course, it is difficult to say whether someone portrays cultural icon well. But Caviezel is consistent in his characterization: his Jesus is patient and loving with a core of steel. Since there is little dialog in the film, most of the acting had to be done with facial expressions. All of the actors, especially Maia Morgenstern, who played the Virgin Mary excelled at this. It may seem that seeing three characters, Mary, Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci), and John (Hristo Jivkov), simply watching the death of Jesus would not spark much emotion. But the three served as a mirror for the audience of their own reactions; their characters also gave depth to the sorrow, as they knew Jesus personally.



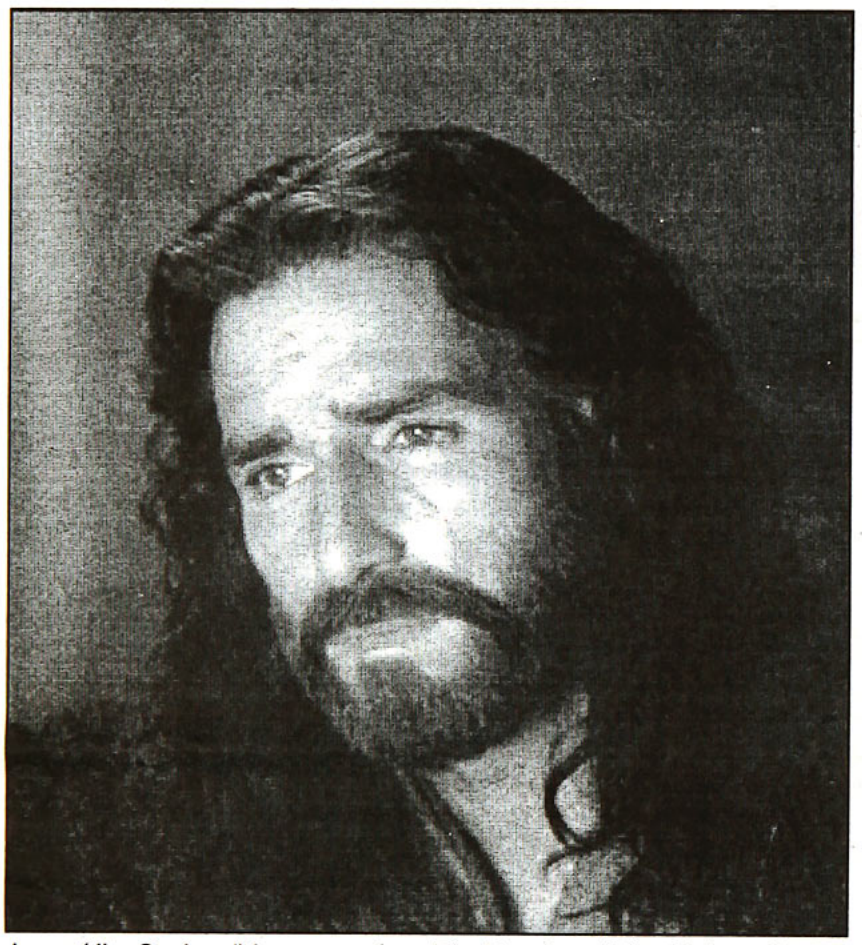
Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci), Mary (Maia Morgenstern) and John (Hristo Jivkov) in a scene from The Passion of The Christ, a film by Mel Gibson. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved. A Newmarket Films release. Photo credit: Philippe Antonello.

An unusual character was added to the movie. Rosalinda Celentano played Satan, who haunts Jesus at various points during the film. This character added another challenge for Jesus to overcome during his journey. Giving Jesus a supernatural obstacle, as well as physical ones, to cope with only deepened his suffering and ultimate success.

There has been much talk over the gore in the film. The movie is indeed bloody. The question is, is it over the top? Given that Mel Gibson was attempting to be as historically accurate as possible, it would simply necessary to show as much blood as was likely spilt. The daring of the film is that the camera does not cut away. There is no fast forward to a few hours or minutes later. Ever stroke of the whip is captured. This may seem tedious, but it was a very bold move in terms of film technique. There is no easy escape for the audience, just as there is no easy escape for Jesus. The tedium of the torture scenes shares the experience with the audience. It was an interesting method to connect the character of Jesus with the audience.

Overall, *The Passion of the Christ* functions well as a film, relying mostly on a visual story. Whether the film will remain as timeless as its subject matter remains to be seen. However, Mel Gibson has certainly set a new standard for religious films.

Mel Gibson (director/producer) directs Jim Caviezel (Jesus) for The Passion of The Christ, a film by Mel Gibson. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved. A Newmarket Films release. Photo credit: Philippe Antonello.



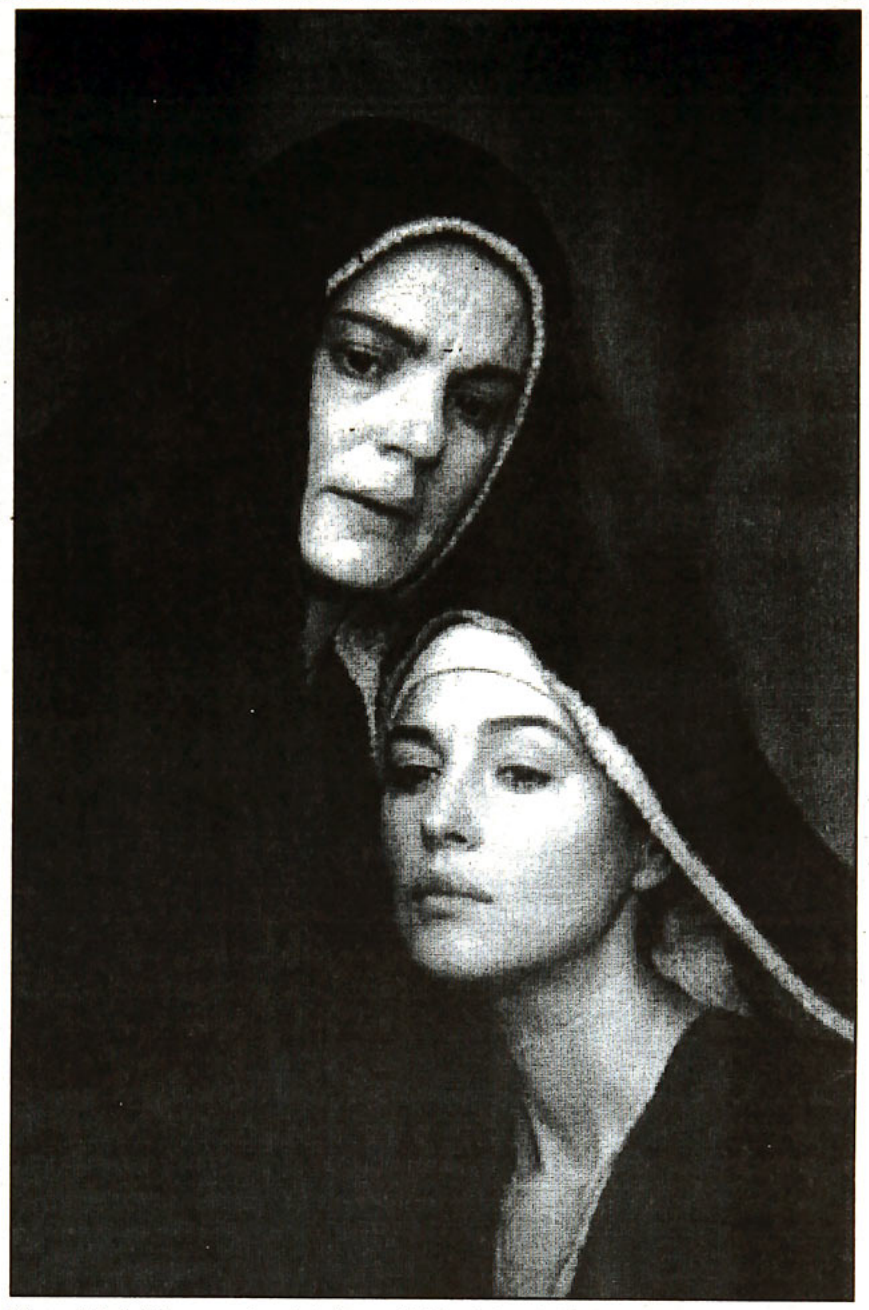
Jesus (Jim Caviezel) in a scene from The Passion of The Christ, a film by Mel Gibson. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved. A Newmarket Films release. Photo credit: Philippe Antonello.

Film raises passion among people who would not think about Jesus otherwise

BY Jennifer Reilly
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, wrote in his Book of Hours many love poems to God. One poem, II, 6, states, "Only when we notice that he is dying do we know he lived." The subject matter of the recently released *The Passion of The Christ*, is neither easily explored nor easily ignored. Discussions of the film have not only taken hold of the media but also the discussions that are occurring on the Saint Leo University Campus. There has never been a film made depicting the death of Jesus Christ in such a manner, and the reactions of different cultures are enormous.

As Rilke believed, the controversy of religion and God is often dormant among people not attuned to its reasoning and effects. The film has arisen a passion among people who would not think about Jesus otherwise. It depicts his scourging and brings the audience to a state of catharsis in which they react accordingly. This film has brought about conversions of faith and resurrections of former beliefs; however, it has also brought about skepticism and cynicism.



Mary (Maia Morgenstern), left, and Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci), right, in a scene from The Passion of The Christ, a film by Mel Gibson. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved. A Newmarket Films release. Photo credit: Philippe Antonello.

The film was discussed in a recent lecture held by The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies here at Saint Leo. The lecture included speeches by Jim Barrens, Father Tony Kissel, Father Michael Cooper, and Dr. Tyson Anderson. Each spoke with enthusiasm and fervor for the movie and simultaneously addressed issues of concern that the film has inspired. The lecture took place on March 2, 2004 in the Raleigh Greene Room.

Jim Barrens, the director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies discussed the influence of passion plays and films depicting the death of Jesus on anti-Semitism. It is understandable that some may find a certain amount of anti-Semitism within *The Passion of the Christ* because the death of Christ is almost always associated with the acts of the Jewish people of the time. It is, however, unfounded that the film's purpose was to bring relations between Christians and Jews to a conflicting state. The truth seems apparent: if you are not anti-Semitic to begin with, this film will not convert your beliefs. A preconceived notion that the film does display a certain amount of disdain towards Judaism will reinforce itself in the mind of a prejudicial viewer. Many people who view the film with a somewhat open mind leave it will a new realization to the sufferings of Christ.

Saint Leo students were encouraged at the lecture to question the film. Father Tony Kissel handed out a slip of paper that posed the following questions: "What has affected you positively in the viewing of this film? What has affected you negatively?" and "Does the film's depiction of Jesus call for a faith response on our part? How might we respond?" This film evoked passion towards Jesus during his inconceivable suffering. This compassion is what would inspire a faith response among our society and our campus.

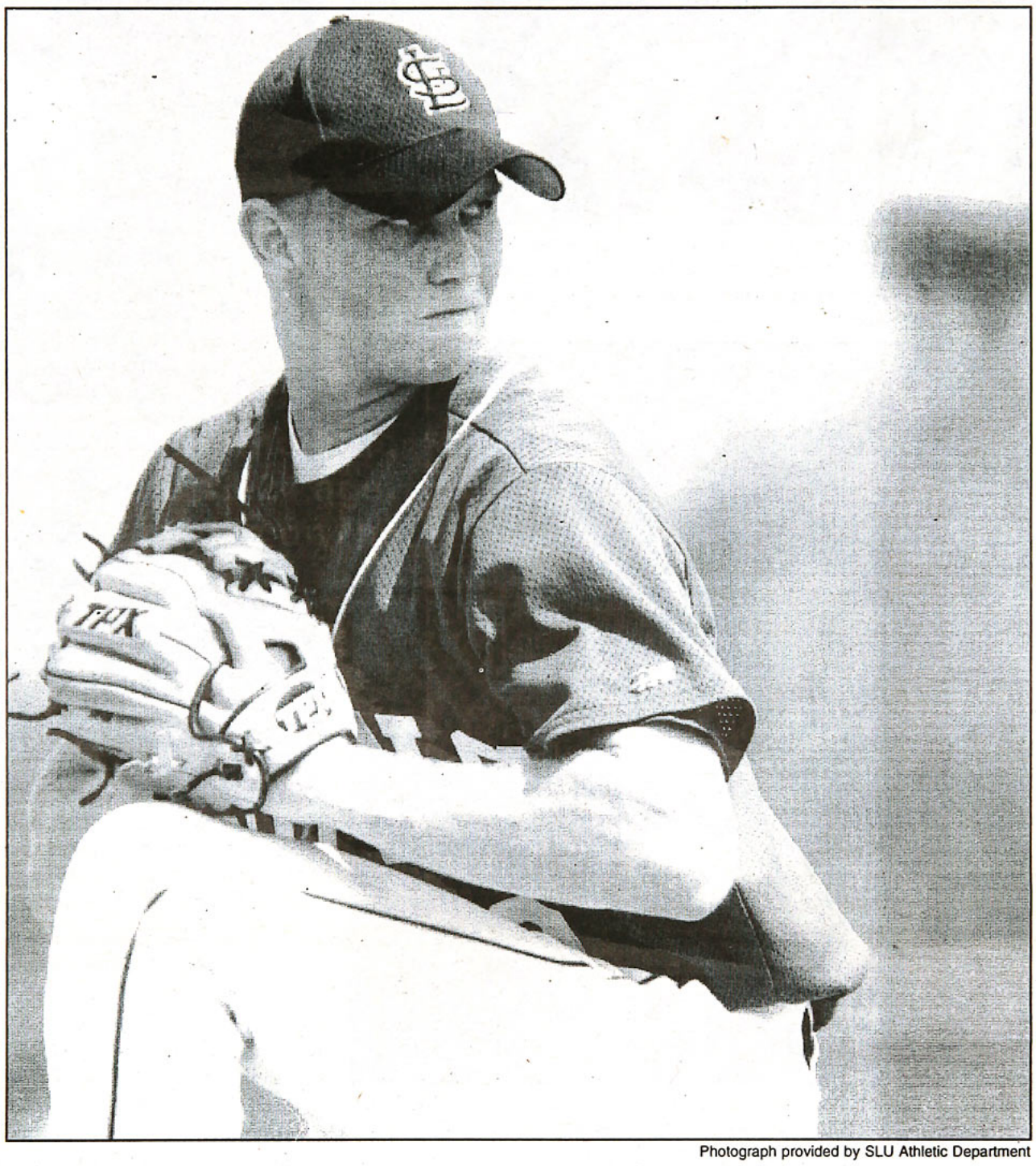
Regardless of religious preference or personal belief, this film has impacted society. As college students, some of us are still developing our own theories as to what faith and what God is all about. I feel it is important that cultural and artistic displays of Jesus Christ be considered, studied, but still questioned. It is hard to acquire a full understanding of the death of Christ, but it is also hard to not believe everything that is depicted to you in such a powerful film. I think this film will inspire many discussions among students on this campus. I hope that it is a useful tool in gaining an understanding of religious beliefs and the understanding human kind has for one another, in spite of of differing beliefs.

Sports

Hawkins continues strong pitching against nationally ranked teams for Lions' baseball

The righhander from Saint Petersburg, FL is among the best in the league.

BY WALT RIDDLE
Sports Information Director



Photograph provided by SLU Athletic Department
Junior pitcher, Danny Hawkins, is 3-1 with a 4.00 earned run average for the season.

SAINT LEO - The Saint Leo University baseball team has played in two Sunshine State Conference three-game series' this season and in the opening game of each set, junior Danny Hawkins of St. Petersburg, FL has been called upon to take on the other team's ace.

And each time, the 6-foot-4 righthander has answered the call against a nationally ranked team. The first time was March 5 when he faced the Barry Bucs, ranked No. 10 in the nation. Hawkins went seven innings, allowing three hits, two runs and three walks as the Lions came away with a 5-4 win. Hawkins struck out 10.

His most recent accomplishment came last Saturday afternoon against the University of Tampa and All-America pitcher Eric Beattie. Hawkins held the nation's No. 1 ranked team to nine hits, three earned runs (four overall) and five walks as the Lions posted a 5-4 victory. He struck out six. Hawkins has proven each outing he is among the best in the league. No other Conference pitcher has accomplished what he has this season in SSC play. For the season, he is 3-1 with a 4.00 earned run average.

On the week, Saint Leo went 3-3 and now stands 14-10 overall and 3-3 in league play.

The Lions started off last week with a 17-7 conquest of St. Joseph's College (IN). The Lions collected 24 hits with senior first baseman Julian Davis of Tampa, FL, junior center fielder Chris Germano of Palm Harbor, FL and senior designated hitter Mike Stepp of Zephyrhills, FL hitting home runs to lead the onslaught. Davis finished with four hits and three runs batted in, while Chris Germano and freshman right fielder Sean Vanguilder of Tallahassee, FL had three hits each and three RBI's. Stepp also had three hits.

Saint Leo turned back Northern Kentucky on Tuesday 5-4, scoring the winning run in the bottom of the ninth on an error. Junior Cody Clay of Clearwater, FL hurled six strong innings, but wasn't involved in the decision. He allowed five hits, three runs, walked one and fanned five. Sophomore Rich Hittel of New Port Richey, FL hurled two hitless innings of relief to keep his team in the game. Junior right fielder Brooks Boyette of Zephyrhills, FL hit a solo home run and added a single, while Stepp had a double and a single and drove in a run.

Shippensburg (PA), ranked 14th in the nation, posted a 9-3 win over the Lions on Thursday. Boyette and junior left fielder Jesse Alvarez of Westminster, MD had a pair of hits each, while Davis and Boyette drove in a run apiece.

Junior Graham Taylor of Zephyrhills, FL earned his first save of the season in the series opener Saturday against Tampa, allowing one hit in relief of Hawkins over the final two frames. He struck out three. The Lions scored twice in the seventh to win on a sacrifice fly by Chris Germano and a run-producing single by Stepp. Senior shortstop Derrick McNeil of Land O'Lakes, FL had a pair of singles and scored once, while Chris Germano finished with three RBIs. He hit a two-run homer in the first inning.

In the second game of the nightcap, the Spartans earned a split with a 2-1 win. Sophomore David Koons of Tampa, FL lost a heartbreaker, going seven innings and permitting eight hits and two runs. He walked one and fanned three. Freshman Aaron Jones of Orlando, FL pitched the final two innings and allowed one hit. Chris Germano collected three of Saint Leo's eight hits and drove in the only run with a single in the third.

Pitching again dominated the third and final game of the series between Tampa and Saint Leo. Freshman Peter Martinez of Tampa, FL and freshman Brandon Webb of Leesburg, FL allowed only six hits, but the Lions were able to solve Tampa for only two hits and dropped a 4-2 decision. McNeil supplied the offense for the home team with a two-run homer in the fifth. Davis collected the only other Lion hit.

Lion women's golf team place 18TH in Snowbird Classic

SAINT LEO - The Saint Leo University women's golf team found the going rough last Thursday and Friday in the 18th annual Snowbird Classic held at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Tampa, FL. The field included 11 Division I teams, four Division II teams and three Division III teams.

James Madison University edged Southern Miss. for the title in the 36-hole event. James Madison shot 604 to win by 13 shots. The Lions had rounds of 405 and 431 for a total of 836.

Sophomore Alexis Esquia of Tampa led Saint Leo by finishing tied for 70th overall at 94-90—184. Senior Claudia Sebold of Oxford, FL tied for 79th overall at 97-97—194, while senior Amy Leach of Rotonda West, FL tied for 89th overall at 95-110—205, and junior Marlena Pogue of Dade City, FL placed 96th overall at 119-134—253.